

State Senator Alan Lowenthal

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9

WELCOME TO MY E-NEWSLETTER! My intention is to keep you informed about what is going on in Sacramento as well as in our district. I hope you will find this information useful. If there are topics you would like me to address in the future, please let me know. Your suggestions are greatly appreciated.

The current fiscal crisis has presented the legislature with a unique opportunity to change the way we do business. It has dramatically underscored the need for major reforms in the way California administers state programs, applies state spending and manages state government.

The Governor called for a special session this fall to look at the state's complicated and unpredictable tax system. California is one of only three states that require a two-thirds vote for the passage of a budget or a tax increase. We have not changed our tax system in decades. Given the changing global economy, it may be appropriate for us as a state to look at what taxes we impose and see if they still make sense or if there are better, less volatile ways of collecting revenue while imposing the least burden on the average Californian. However, under our current system we cannot even begin this discussion. I look forward to hearing your ideas for how to improve our system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan S. Lowenthal". The script is fluid and cursive.

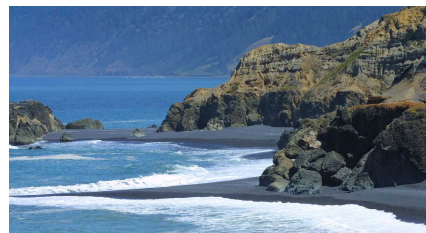
Senator Alan Lowenthal

Sunset Magazine Honors Senator Lowenthal as a "California Coastal Hero"

Sunset

Sunset Magazine and the California Coastal Commission have named Senator Alan Lowenthal as one of their

2009 California Coastal Heroes. Lowenthal has been described by the magazine as a thoughtful, substantive legislator who can effectively negotiate the legislative process without ever losing sight of coastal protection. "Rarely does a legislative session go by in Sacramento without Senator Lowenthal advancing coastal protection," a magazine representative said.



The 2009 California Coastal Heroes are: John Hanke, Director of product management for Google Geo; Gary Griggs, Chair of the University of California Marine Council; Serge Dedina, Founder and Executive Director of Wildcoast; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, actress and activist; Julie Packard, Director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium; Linda Sheehan, California Coastkeeper Alliance; Pierce Brosnan and Keely Shaye Smith Brosnan, who have made a name for themselves outside the acting world as environmental activists and volunteers. The 2009 Coastal Heroes will be honored at the California Coastal Commission's 25th Anniversary Celebration September 17 at the Aquarium of the Bay in San Francisco.



Senator Lowenthal Voluntarily Reduces His Salary 18%

SACRAMENTO – Senator Alan Lowenthal voluntarily reduced his pay 18% as suggested by the California Citizens Compensation Commission. The voluntary reduction, which immediately took effect June 1, is just under \$21,000 a year. "California's residents, as well as many hard working, dedicated public servants will be devastated by these cuts. I cannot, in good conscience, ask others to make sacrifices without making sacrifices myself," said Lowenthal.

Recently, the California Citizens Compensation Commission imposed an 18% reduction on legislative salaries. However, an earlier proposition enacted by voters, prohibited the reduction of legislative salaries mid-term. Because the Commission is prohibited from reducing salaries mid-term, Senator Lowenthal is entitled to receive his full salary, currently \$116,208, until 2012 when he is termed out of the Senate.

The California Citizens Compensation Commission was created in 1990 with the passage of Prop 112. The proposition created a 7-member commission appointed by the Governor to review constitutional officer and legislative salaries each year. An earlier enacted proposition, Prop 6 from 1972, prohibited the reduction of legislative salaries mid-term.

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Bill Authored by Senator Lowenthal

Legislative
Update

SACRAMENTO – Senator Alan Lowenthal has authored SB 183 to require that a carbon monoxide device be installed in existing dwellings intended for human occupancy that have a fossil fuel burning appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage. The legislation would authorize the adoption of building standards to require the installation of carbon monoxide devices in new dwellings.

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms have been determined to be the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide. There is a dramatic correlation between CO alarm ordinances in states/cities and lower death and hospitalization rates from carbon monoxide. CO alarms provide a vital, highly effective and low cost protection against carbon monoxide poisoning that should be in every California home. "Carbon monoxide is a silent killer and these inexpensive devices will save hundreds of visits to emergency rooms throughout California," Lowenthal stated.

SB 183 would require all existing single family homes to have a carbon monoxide detector installed by January 1, 2011. For all other existing dwelling units the compliance date is July 1, 2012. A violation is punishable by up to a \$200 fine but would require that the property owner receive a 30-day notice to correct prior to the fine being assessed. SB 183 also updates the Property Transfer Disclosure Statement to include the disclosure of whether the home being transferred/purchased has a carbon monoxide alarm installed. The installation of a CO alarm is not a precondition to sale or transfer.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



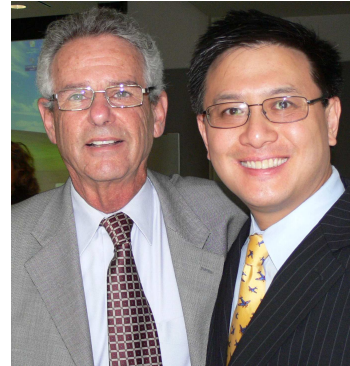
AQMD partners with Senator Lowenthal to Brief Education Leaders on Air Quality

PARAMOUNT – The South Coast Air Quality Management District in partnership with Senator Lowenthal presented an Air Quality Institute in August, designed to provide local educators with an important briefing on critical air quality issues facing the region. “The speakers were excellent and I learned a great deal about the most recent air quality research,” commented Lowenthal. The event was very well attended by local school board members, superintendents, college trustees, union leaders and PTA presidents.

The Senator previously partnered with the AQMD in 2006 to provide a similar Air Quality Institute for city council members. This continues the Senator’s commitment to improving the air quality for all Californians and engaging local community leaders in that effort. Cordoba Corporation coordinated both of these briefings in partnership with the Office of Senator Lowenthal.

Senator Lowenthal Partners with State Controller John Chiang, Hosts Women’s Financial Seminar

LONG BEACH – Senator Alan Lowenthal and State Controller John Chiang hosted a free Women’s Financial Literacy, Business and Tax Seminar in Long Beach, in July.



The seminar, held at the Long Beach Groundwater Treatment Plant, featured panelists who discussed topics including: resources to enhance small businesses and tax compliance, staying in business during difficult times, and career and financial planning in the current economy. “I am happy to partner with Controller Chiang to provide this timely information to members of our community,” said Lowenthal.

Partners for the event included the Small Business Development Center hosted by Long Beach City College, the Port of Long Beach, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, the Women’s Business Council of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, Women Lawyers of Long Beach, the National Association of Women Business Owners Los Angeles, and the Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership. Over 100 people attended the event.





Senator Hosts “Help Is Here Express” Bus Tour to Help Patients Access Prescription Medicines

LONG BEACH - The “Help is Here Express” bus tour arrived in Long Beach in July stopping at the Department of Health to help uninsured and financially-struggling Californians access information on programs that provide prescription medicines for free or at a low cost. The bus tour is part of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) – a nationwide effort sponsored by America’s pharmaceutical research companies – raising awareness of patient assistance programs among residents who face layoffs or a loss of health care benefits in a struggling economy. Senator Alan Lowenthal said “I am very pleased to let our community know about this important service.”

Additionally patients who visited the bus learned about new medicines in development to fight chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and asthma. Senator Lowenthal was joined by Senator Roderick Wright, 25th District; Ron Arias, Long Beach Health Department Director; and staff from the Partnership for Prescription Assistance.

Senator Lowenthal Delivers Commencement Address at Long Beach City College

LONG BEACH – As a former college professor, Senator Alan Lowenthal was extremely pleased to serve as the commencement speaker for the Class of 2009 at Long Beach City College in May.



During the ceremony he told graduates not to be discouraged with the current job market. “But make no mistake,” he said “the education you have received at Long Beach City College is essential to finding that job.” The Senator added that by obtaining a degree or professional certificate, graduates have open the door to a world of potential, improving their lifetime earnings and creating new career possibilities.



A Community Conversation in Belmont Shore with Senator Lowenthal

Belmont Shore – Senator Alan Lowenthal hosted a community conversation in April at Polly’s Gourmet Coffee in the Belmont Shore neighborhood of Long Beach. Lowenthal provided a legislative update, information about the budget challenges in Sacramento, and gave an opportunity for questions and comments from the residents in attendance. Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster and Councilmember Gary DeLong dropped by at the gathering. This event continues a series of neighborhood conversations Senator Lowenthal has hosted throughout the district.

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CONSTITUENTS CORNER

Nancy Foster Named 2009 Woman of the Year by Senator Lowenthal

PARAMOUNT – Nancy Foster was named the 27th Senate District Woman of the Year 2009. Mrs. Foster, the wife of Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, was recognized for her many and varied contributions to the Long Beach community.

"The 27th Senate District is blessed with many extraordinary women, and it is always a humbling experience to try to pick just one Woman of the Year," said Lowenthal. "That being said, Nancy Foster is an exceptionally deserving recipient of this honor."



Nancy Foster has been described as a person who "walks the talk." She is an active member of the Steel Magnolias of the Geraldine A. Stramski Children's Development Center of Miller Children's Hospital; board member, Long Beach Cancer League; member of BLAST (Better Learning After School Today); member of ELLAS (Embracing Latina Leadership Alliance); member of Child Net (at-risk teens); board member of Rancho Los Alamitos; and trustee for the future Long Beach Ronald McDonald House.



She received the California State University Long Beach President's Distinguished Service Award for her dedicated work in the community; Harbor Division of the American Cancer Society President's Award; and was named "Mental Health Hero" and presented the Golden Ducky Award by The Village, an agency of the Mental Health Association of Los Angeles County, among others.

Senator Lowenthal also honored 20 nominees for the 27th Senate District Woman of the Year at a luncheon in April in Paramount, CA. He presented each with a Senate Resolution recognizing their dedicated efforts to benefit the residents of our community.

The nominees were Kristi Heicke, Susan K. Beeney, Theresa Bixby, Stella Davis, Mellissa Morgan, Leah Slenk nominated by organizations from Long Beach; Lucy Avalos, Rachel Chavez, Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Martina Rodriguez, Guadalupe Castro Santana, Abigail Serrano from the City of Lynwood; Stacy Brabant and Irma Landesfeind nominated by the City of Downey; Janna Enkhorn nominated by Soroptomist International of Bellflower; Julie Knabe nominated by the City of Paramount; Linda Quarto nominated by the City of Lakewood; Karen Speers nominated by the City of Artesia; and Nona Daly nominated by the City of Signal Hill.



Signal Tribune Publisher Neena Strichart Honored as 2009 Small Business Honoree

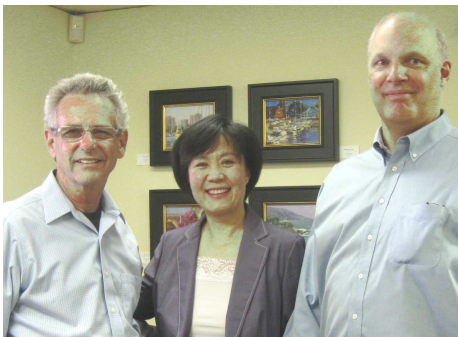
SIGNAL HILL - Neena Strichart, publisher of the *Signal Tribune* newspaper, was selected by Senator Alan Lowenthal to be honored in Sacramento as the 2009 Small Business Honoree from the 27th Senate District at the California Small Business Day Luncheon in May.



Ms. Strichart was chosen to be honored for her commitment to the Signal Hill community by offering quality, accurate reporting of past and upcoming events and ensuring that the community is aware of the many items of interest occurring in their neighborhoods.

"It was so wonderful for our weekly newspaper, the *Signal Tribune*, to be recognized in Sacramento - our state's capital. I am honored and grateful that Senator Lowenthal appreciates all the time and hard work my staff and I put in on a daily basis. We enjoy every minute of it - it's truly a labor of love," remarked Strichart. Senator Lowenthal noted that "Neena is an energetic and outstanding business leader who is involved in our community. I am pleased to recognize her for these efforts."

The awards luncheon was part of a daylong event in which small business and government joined together in "A Salute to Small Business." Over 70 small businesses throughout California were recognized for their contributions to the state's economy. The event concluded with a dialogue between government agencies, small business liaisons and small business leaders.



Long Beach Artist Ying Liu Selected by Senator to be Featured at State Capitol

SACRAMENTO - Senator Lowenthal selected artist Ying Liu to be featured in the California Contemporary Art Collection on display currently at the State Capitol. Her works are also on display at Senator Lowenthal's Long Beach district office.

Ms. Liu's painting features a sweeping view of Santa Catalina Island's scenic harbor and historic Casino. "It was a fun little painting trip to Santa Catalina Island. We rented a little golf car to drive all over the island. Up in the mountain, I had this view and decided that I had to paint it." Ms. Liu painted this in November 2008. "We had the six fires burning in the Los Angeles area. As you can see from this painting, there is the reddish cloud hanging over the distant horizon from Santa Catalina Island," she commented. "It is very sad that lots of people lost their homes and belongings."

Born in China, Ying Liu showed interest in drawing and painting in her early childhood. As a young adult, however, Ying chose teaching English at her home university in China as her profession. Ying came to the United States in 1987 to pursue graduate studies, starting at The Ohio State University, the Senator's alma mater, and continuing at USC and UCLA.



Senator Lowenthal Welcomes 2009 Summer Interns to His District Office Staff



LONG BEACH & PARAMOUNT – Every summer Senator Lowenthal welcomes high school and college students to intern in his district offices in Long Beach and Paramount. Dozens of students throughout the 27th Senate District apply and compete for these opportunities. The internship program provides each intern with an introduction to the California Legislature and the opportunity to conduct independent research.

Pictured with Senator Lowenthal (from L-R) are: Ryan Moore, Cypress College; Echo Hubbert, Renaissance HS; Cynthia Kim, CSULB; Stephanie Perez, CSULB; Andy Min, Cypress College (not pictured: Franbert Calderon, Cal Poly Pomona; Nicholas Oifoh, Cerritos HS; Donna Saadati, Whitney HS; and Dana Rosenberg, Los Alamitos HS).

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 22 – Senator’s “Meet & Greet” in Artesia

ARTESIA – Please join Senator Alan Lowenthal for a “Community Meet & Greet” on Saturday morning, August 22, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. You are invited to enjoy coffee and conversation at *It’s A Grind*, at 18174 Pioneer Boulevard in Artesia (at the northeast corner of 183rd Street and Pioneer Boulevard). The event will feature a current legislative update, news from Sacramento, an exchange of ideas, and how the budget will affect you and your family. This is the next in an ongoing series of neighborhood conversations that Senator Lowenthal has hosted throughout the 27th Senate District over the past five years.

NOV 21 – Young Women’s Empowerment Conf.

Long Beach – Senator Lowenthal will host the Third Annual Young Women’s Empowerment Conference on November 21. The event will take place at California State University Long Beach, where 11th and 12th grade young women attending 27th district high schools will have the opportunity to learn about personal growth, health and educational and career goals. Deserving students will be awarded with a scholarship during this motivating and empowering day. Workshops will be available for the young women throughout the day and a keynote speaker will address the audience on the profound impact women have on politics, society and world economic issues. For more information, contact field representative Irantzu Pujadas by email Irantzu.Pujadas@sen.ca.gov or by phone (562) 529-6659.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Offices of Senator Alan Lowenthal.

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-4027

LONG BEACH OFFICE
115 Pine Avenue, Suite 430
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 495-4766

PARAMOUNT OFFICE
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, CA 90723
(562) 529-6659

E-NEWSLETTER | Editor: I.Pujadas | Copyediting: H.Ansel, R.McCray | Photography & Design: M.Pulido |

